THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Commission of Railway Safety

3251. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the safety of a rail passenger is the responsibility of an office called the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS);

(b) if so, whether the credibility of CRS has come under considerable strain after the recent Rajdhani Express accident;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by Government to make free from the undue pressure on this organisation in the interest of the safety of a rail passenger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. The responsibility of safety of rail passenger lies with the Indian Railways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Commission of Railway Safety, though, charged with the inquiry into serious rail accidents as defined in Indian Railway Act, 1989, is independent of Ministry of Railways, as it functions under the authority of Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Misbehave by CRPF Jawans in Kerala Express

3252. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of tipsy CRPF Jawans tortured a school team from Madhya Pradesh, consisting of girls and female teaching staff, travelling in Thiruvananthapuram bound Kerala Express, on the 18th October, 2002;

(b) whether the CRPF Jawans, in uniform, were drunk, when the school team boarded the train at Itarsi; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not attending the complaints, by the Railway officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. On 18.10.2002, CRPF personnel reportedly harassed and allegedly molested some of the girls students and three female teachers in Kerala Express between Itarsi and Alwaye on their journey. A case on Crime No. 75/2002 u/s 143, 223, 354 R/W 149 IPC and 145 Railway Act was registered at GRP Station/ Emukulam against CRPF personnel.

(b) Some of CRPF Jawans were in civil dress. It is not known if they were drunk or not.

(c) Prevention and detection of crime on Railways including running trains being the constitutional responsibility of the Government Railway Police, the complaint was attended by GRP/Kerala and legal action was initiated against CRPF personnel.

Natural Wealth of India

3253. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether manuscripts of Natural Wealth of India series, entitled Bamboos of India; Neem in India; Cotton in India; Mango in India and Natural Dyes of India, submitted for approval, have been pending with competent authority, NISCAIR (CSIR), for a long time;

(b) if so, the dates of initial submission of above titles and the reasons for delay in approval;

(c) whether a brochure on above titles, alongwith feed back proforma, were published during 2002;

(d) whether NISCAIR used to bring out such proforma, before approval of titles for publication; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including of IT books, for the last three years?